

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and in response to the final Office Action dated April 9, 2008, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by July 9, 2008.

Claims 15-17 and 19-28, 30-31, and 33 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, claims 15, 19-23, 30 and 31 were indicated as being allowable if amended as proposed by the Examiner. Claims 16, 17, 24-28, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,172,472 to Klingbeil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,602,110 to Yi. Claim 29 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, claim 15 has been amended as proposed by the Examiner to define that the sensor unit 9 further has a strain gauge and/or a piezoelectric sensor. Claim 15 should now be allowable.

Claim 16 was amended to add the features of allowable claim 29, which was canceled. Claim 16 also should now be allowable.

New claim 33 was added, which recites the features of claim 19 but depends instead from claim 16.

Rejected claim 32 has been canceled.

In addition, method claims 27 and 28 have been amended to define more clearly over the cited references. Support for the amendments can be found in

the original disclosure on page 6, line 27 through page 7, line 4; page 7, line 28 through page 8, line 4; and page 15, lines 18-27.

Amended claims 27 and 28 now recite control and/or regulation by a control and/or regulating unit 20 **as a function of the contact pressure**. None of the cited art discloses this *functional relationship*. For example, the means for adjusting motor speed or motor torque in Klingbeil are defined as either a user-adjustable potentiometer or a switch (see claims 3-5 of Klingbeil). Therefore, no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established for any of these claims.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. However, should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call to resolved any remaining issues in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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